

What is claimed is:

1 1. A multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing semiconductor
2 devices comprising:

3 a cassette stage for mounting a cassette having wafers stacked thereon;

4 a transfer path adjacent to the cassette stage for providing space for transportation

5 *Sub* of wafers, the transfer path having a width slightly larger than a diameter of the wafers;

6 a plurality of processing chambers aligned with the transfer path; and

7 a transfer mechanism installed in the transfer path for loading and unloading the

8 wafers stacked on the cassette stage to the plurality of processing chambers.

1 2. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing

2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein the processing chambers are

3 installed in multiple layers.

1 3. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing

2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein each processing chamber has a gate

3 formed on a side facing the transfer path, the gate being selectively opened and closed to

4 allow passage of the wafers.

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1 4. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein a load lock chamber is connected to
3 one side of the processing chamber, the load lock chamber serving as a stand-by area for
4 the wafers.

1 5. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 4, wherein the load lock chamber comprises:
3 a transfer arm for receiving the wafers from the transfer mechanism and
4 transferring the wafers to the processing chamber;
5 an inner transfer device for moving the transfer arm; and
6 gates formed on a side of the transfer path and a side of the processing chamber,
7 respectively, the gates being selectively opened and closed to allow passage of the wafers.

1 The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 5, wherein the transfer arm comprises a
3 plurality of transfer arms for simultaneously transferring a plurality of wafers.

1 7. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 4, wherein the load lock chamber has a vacuum
3 pressure generator for forming vacuum pressure therein.

1 8. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of processing chambers
3 have one common load lock chamber.

1 The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein processing chambers are connected
3 by gates such that wafers finishing one process in one processing chamber can be directly
4 moved to another processing chamber for a subsequent process.

1 10. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein the processing chambers have a
3 vacuum pressure generator for forming vacuum pressure therein.

1 11. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein the transfer mechanism comprises:
3 a transfer arm for selectively holding the wafers;
4 a transfer robot for loading and unloading the wafers into the processing chamber
5 by moving the transfer arm;
6 a horizontal driving part for moving the transfer robot horizontally; and

7 a controller for controlling the transfer robot and the horizontal driving part by
8 applying control signals thereto.

1 12. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim ~~11~~, wherein the transfer mechanism further
3 comprises a vertical driving part for moving the transfer robot vertically on receipt of a
4 control signal from the controller.

1 13. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 11, wherein the transfer arm is provided with a
3 vacuum line so as to vacuum-absorb the wafers.

1 14. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim ~~11~~, wherein the transfer arm comprises a
3 plurality of transfer arms which simultaneously transfer a plurality of wafers.

1 15. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim ~~11~~, wherein the horizontal driving part
3 comprises a motor or a pneumatic cylinder.

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- 1 16. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 11, wherein the vertical driving part comprises
3 a motor or a pneumatic cylinder.

- 1 16 The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein the transfer path is extended and the
3 transfer mechanism comprises a plurality of the transfer mechanisms installed so as to
4 transfer wafers from one transfer mechanism to another.

- 1 16 The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 1, wherein the transfer mechanism transfers
3 unprocessed wafers from a cassette mounted on a first cassette stage to one of the
4 processing chambers, and processed wafers from another of the processing chambers to a
5 second cassette stage which is located such that the wafers are easily transferred to a
6 subsequent process.

- 1 16 The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices of claim 1, wherein the transfer path has a rectangular shape.

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- 1 20. A multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices comprising:
3 a cassette stage for mounting a cassette having wafers stacked thereon;
4 a transfer path adjacent to the cassette stage for providing space for transportation
5 of wafers, the transfer path having a width slightly larger than a diameter of the wafers;
6 a plurality of processing chambers aligned in multi-layers parallel to and beside the
7 transfer path; and
8 a transfer mechanism capable of vertical/horizontal reciprocal movement installed
9 in the transfer path for loading and unloading the wafers stacked on the cassette stage to
10 the plurality of processing chambers.

- 1 21. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 20, wherein the transfer path has a rectangular
3 shape.

- 1 22. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 20, wherein the multi-layers of the processing
3 chambers number 2 to 5 layers.

1 23. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 20, wherein a load lock chamber is connected
3 to one side of the processing chambers, the load lock chamber serving as a stand-by area
4 for the wafers.

1 24. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 23, wherein the load lock chamber comprises:
3 a transfer arm for receiving wafers from the transfer mechanism and transferring
4 the wafers to the processing chamber;
5 an inner transfer device for moving the transfer arm; and
6 gates formed on a side of the transfer path and a side of the processing chamber,
7 respectively, the gates being selectively opened and closed to allow passage of the wafers.

1 25. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 24, wherein the transfer arm comprises a
3 plurality of transfer arms for simultaneously transferring a plurality of wafers.

1 26. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 20, wherein the transfer mechanism comprises:
3 a transfer arm having a vacuum line so as to selectively vacuum-absorb the wafers;

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4 a transfer robot for loading and unloading the wafers into the processing chamber
5 by moving the transfer arm;
6 a vertical driving part for moving the transfer robot vertically;
7 ~~the~~ a horizontal driving part for moving the transfer robot horizontally; and
8 a controller for controlling the transfer robot, the vertical driving part, and the
9 horizontal driving part by applying control signals thereto.

1 27. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 26, wherein the transfer arm comprises a
3 plurality of the transfer arms which simultaneously transfer a plurality of wafers.

1 28. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 26, wherein the vertical driving part and the
3 horizontal driving part each comprise a motor or a pneumatic cylinder.

1 29. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 26, wherein the transfer path is extended, and
3 the transfer mechanism comprises a plurality of transfer mechanisms installed so as to
4 transfer wafers from one transfer mechanism to another.

1 20. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim ~~20~~, wherein the transfer mechanism transfers
3 unprocessed wafers from a cassette mounted on a first cassette stage to one of the
4 processing chambers, and processed wafers from another of the processing chambers to a
5 second cassette stage which is located such that the wafers are easily transferred to a
6 subsequent process.

1 31. A multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices comprising:
3 a first cassette stage for mounting a cassette having unprocessed wafers stacked
4 thereon;
5 a transfer path adjacent to the first cassette stage, the transfer path having a
6 rectangular shape and providing a space for transportation of wafers;
7 a plurality of processing chambers arranged in multi-layers and aligned in parallel
8 beside the transfer path;
9 a transfer mechanism capable of vertical/horizontal reciprocal movement installed
10 in the transfer path for loading and unloading the wafers stacked on the first cassette stage
11 to the plurality of processing chambers; and
12 a second cassette stage placed opposite to the first cassette stage and mounting a
13 cassette having processed wafers stacked thereon.

- 1 32. The multi-chamber system of an etching facility for manufacturing
2 semiconductor devices according to claim 31, wherein the transfer mechanism comprises:
3 a transfer arm having a vacuum line for selectively vacuum-absorbing wafers;
4 a transfer robot for loading and unloading wafers to the processing chambers by
5 moving the transfer arm;
6 a vertical driving part for vertically moving the transfer robot;
7 a horizontal driving part for horizontally moving the transfer robot; and
8 a controller for controlling the transfer robot, the vertical driving part, and the
9 horizontal driving part by applying control signals thereto.